THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As per the surveys of National Sample Survey Organisation, estimated unemployment rate in the country, on usual status basis during 1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000 were of the order of 1.90%, 1.90% and 2.23% respectively. Unemployment rate in Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh) and Maharashtra were as under:

State	Unemployment rate during			
	1993-94		1999-2000	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	0.5	5.0	0.5	3.5
Maharashtra	0.8	4.4	1.4	5.8

(b) No, Sir. Estimated female employment on usual status basis has gone up from 107.11 million in 1987-88 to 123.04 million in 1999-2000.

(c) Does not arise.

Child Labour

1277. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Central Law in place to prevent the Child Labour from being employed in hazardous occupations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous occupations;

(d) whether it is proposed to make a comprehensive Legislation to provide education, welfare, entertainment and rehabilitation to the entire child labour force in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 13 Occupations & 57 Processes listed in the schedule to the Act.

(c) Occupations and processes listed in the schedule to the Act are considered hazardous for the purpose of prohibiting employment of children.

(d) and (e) The Government has already formulated a National Policy on Child Labour, 1987 which consists of the following three components:

(i) A legislative action Plan

(ii) Focussing of general development programmes for benefiting child labour wherever possible, and

(iii) Project based plan of action for launching of projects for the welfare of working children in areas of high concentration of child labour.

The Government has been implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLPs) in the country. The major activity under the NCLP is running special schools/centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal/formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. So far, 100 NCLPs are under implementation in 13 child labour endemic states for the coverage of 2.11 lakh children.

Welfare Board for unorganised workers

1278. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a legislation for setting up of a Welfare Board for unorganised sector workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funding pattern and financial resources for functioning of the Board has been earmaked;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what would be the role assigned to NGOs in this Welfare Board?